

**Steps and resources to consider to help stabilize your business in the aftermath of the Eagle Creek Fire**  
Federal, state, local partners continue to hear from businesses impacted by the Eagle Creek Fire. We know that revenue and income losses due to the fire have been significant, and with I-84 still closed, continue to accrue. Below are a few steps and resources to consider to help stabilize your business in the short run.

- **Connect with the Employment Department to discuss strategies to stabilize and maintain a relationship with your employees**

The Oregon Employment Department offers a variety of programs to help fill gaps in wages.

- Employees affected by the Eagle Creek Fire can file an unemployment insurance claim. For additional information on how to file an unemployment insurance claim, please call 1-800-436-6191 and identify yourself as being impacted by the Eagle Creek Fire. You can also obtain additional information on how to file an unemployment insurance claim at [www.employment.oregon.gov](http://www.employment.oregon.gov)
- The [Oregon Work Share](http://www.OregonWorkShare.org) program helps fill those gaps while allowing an employer and employee to maintain a relationship and avoid a layoff. Your employer must apply for a Work Share plan by contacting the UI Special Programs Center at 1-800-436-6191 or you can learn more about the program online at [www.OregonWorkShare.org](http://www.OregonWorkShare.org)
- Remember to connect employees to 2-1-1 for additional services

- **Work with your private insurance provider and if you have question about your claim call a consumer advocate**

It is always a good idea to check in with your private insurance provider if you have been impacted by a natural disaster. Private insurance may include coverage for unforeseen closures or lost business, especially if a business has closed operations due to a mandatory evacuation or blocked access imposed by a civil authority. In some cases, insurance may cover damages to business caused by significant ash or smoke and any disruptions to business caused by repairing that damage. If you have a questions or need help with your insurance claim, contact a consumer advocate at 888-877-4894. The Department of Consumer and Business Services has staff ready to help. Here is some helpful information, DCBS put together on filing claims after a wildfire: <http://dfr.oregon.gov/news/Pages/20170906-wildfire-claims-help.aspx>

- **Connect with your local Small Business Development Center to design a strategy**

The CGCC SBDC can have an experienced counselor meet with you to support your efforts to plan the best strategies for moving forward. They can assist with: Budgeting, forecasting and cash flow recovery strategies; support with insurance claims and disaster assistance applications; access to short term credit assistance programs that may be available. Contact Rick Leibowitz at (541) 506-6120 or [rleibowitz@cgcc.edu](mailto:rleibowitz@cgcc.edu).

- **Connect with Financing**

- **Complete SBA interest form (Worksheet) to help unlock potential federal relief :** The U.S. Small Business Administration may be able to provide low interest loans to small businesses and private nonprofit organizations in the wake of the Eagle Creek Fire.
- **Connect with your lenders and explore other public lending resources:** Private and public lenders will often be flexible in disaster situations to help businesses meet their obligations. Reach out to your commercial lending officer, the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, or Business Oregon to discuss current loans or additional financing.

- **Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) has low interest loans** available to support, including working capital to assist businesses affected by natural disasters as they return to profitability. Contact Eric Nerdin at [eric@mcedd.org](mailto:eric@mcedd.org) or 541-296-2266 for more information. ***Existing MCEDD and OIB loan clients should be in contact with Eric to discuss options for their existing loans.***
  - **Business Oregon** also offers flexible loan products. Interested businesses should call Tom Schnell at 541-280-1631.
- **Stay connected!**

Continue to check in with your fellow business owners, local chambers, business organizations, and networks for information and ideas. Small business owners are a resilient community. Many business owners have weathered downturns before, and often the best ideas come from the business community itself. For example, businesses in Cascade Locks have already banded together to help stabilize revenue through the Cascade Locks Strong campaign: <https://www.cascadelocksstrong.com>
  - **Stay tuned**

Federal, state, and local partners continue to look at a variety of routes to help to stabilize businesses and people after a significant statewide fire season. Recovery will be a long-term process, and we will continue to send you information and resources as it becomes available.